



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE PROPOSALS ON FARM FUEL ADOPTED BY FEO, MORE FUEL FOR HARVEST SEEN

SALINA, KANSAS -- The Federal Energy Office announced this week that it is adopting changes in its mandatory fuel allocation regulations which Senator Dole proposed more than two months ago.

The rules change, designed to guarantee farmers receive the 100 percent of-current-need fuel supply which farmers have been promised, were first proposed by Dole in a February 23rd letter to the FEO Administrator, William Simon. "The rules change was desperately needed," Dole said, "in order to make sure that there was enough fuel available to back up that 100 percent of-current-need for farmers assurance. It was apparent from the way the previous regulations were written and being implemented, that the FEO simply didn't understand how a lot of farmers got their fuel. I think now, that they have finally caught on, though it has taken a while to convince them."

The rules change will be published in the Federal Register on Monday. It provides for the 'upward reporting system' Dole has sought to ensure that agricultural fuel demands on retailers will be reported to and adequately supplied by fuel distributors on up the chain of supply to the refiner level.

"Without this system," says Dole, "farm fuel requirements would have to be met out of a state's monthly fuel allocation, and a State like Kansas, with heavy agricultural activity, would be disproportionately and unfairly affected. With the new rules, Kansas should expect several million gallons of additional fuel."

Dole called the changes a "major step in the right direction. The FEO also took action last week to establish a better coordination system, allowing farmers to report fuel problems immediately through local ASCS offices. If they will act quickly on my recommendation to establish a workable emergency harvest fuel delivery system," Dole added, "then I will be more hopeful still about the prospect for harvest."

On a related matter, Dole said he had received an interim report from the Government Accounting Office pursuant to his request for an investigation of fertilizer. "Indications are that exports of American fertilizer are continuing to rise, in spite of assurances from manufacturers that domestic sales would be increased after fertilizer price controls were lifted last fall. I and many of my colleagues in the Congress would be hesitant to impose any new controls on this or any commodity," Dole said, "but the fertilizer companies must not be allowed to ignore the needs of their primary market--the American farmers." Dole said he was hopeful that government action would not be forced by the current extreme shortage of available fertilizer.